

Message Text

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INFO OAU COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 171696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OAU, XA, MARR, PORC

SUBJECT:PRE-OAU SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NUMAYRI

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR YOU TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT NUMAYRI TO BRIEF HIM ON OUR VIEWS ON CERTAIN KEY ISSUES, INFORM HIM OF ACTIONS BEING TAKEN ON ZAIRE/ ANGOLA AND EXPLORE AREAS IN WHICH WE MIGHT SUPPORT HIM AND THE OAU, IF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES ARISE. DURING YOUR MEETING THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE COVERED.

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2. IN VIEW OF NUMAYRI'S HARD WORK AND EXPERIENCE IN THE EFFORT TO MEDIATE DISPUTES THROUGHOUT THE REGION, IT IS FORTUNATE THAT HE IS ASSUMING THE OAU CHAIRMANSHIP AT A TIME WHEN A NUMBER OF GROWING CONFLICTS NEED TO BE RESOLVED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM AND HIS SUCCESSOR, PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA, AND BELIEVE THAT UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP THE ORGANIZATION CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN

RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE CONTINENT.

3. WE KNOW THAT NUMAYRI IS ALREADY TAKING STEPS TO SEEK A CONSENSUS ON CERTAIN MEDIATION AND PEACEKEEPING ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT THE SUMMIT. PARAMOUNT AMONG THESE IS THE ZAIRE/ANGOLA SITUATION. YOU SHOULD INFORM NUMAYRI THAT

WE ARE PRESENTLY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES ON A STEP-BY-STEP SERIES OF RECIPROCAL VERIFIED ACTIONS BY BOTH SIDES TO REDUCE TENSIONS. DURING AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S TALKS IN ANGOLA, THE ANGOLANS APPEARED GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY. THE ANGOLANS ARE TAKING A FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS BY MOVING ZAIRIAN REFUGEES AWAY FROM THE BORDER AND DISARMING THEM. WE ARE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU LOOKING TOWARD A RECIPROCAL ACTION. AT SOME POINT THE QUESTION MIGHT BE THE SUBJECT OF MEDIATION (FYI: ORIGINALLY BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO CONGO AS MEDIATOR, BUT MORE RECENTLY MOBUTU HAS EXPRESSED SECOND THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTED LIBERIA INSTEAD). WHILE THE TIMING OF ANY MEDIATION REMAINS UNCLEAR, SHOULD IT COME TO PASS, OAU ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL.

4. THE U.S. OPPOSES THE CONCEPT OF A PAN-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FORMED OUTSIDE THE OAU FRAMEWORK. SUCH A FORCE COULD LEAD TO CREATION OF AN OPPOSING FORCE AND THUS CONTRIBUTE TO POLARIZING AFRICA. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE OAU
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CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM E.G. SUCH AS THE UN HAS, FOR PEACEKEEPING OR TRUCE OBSERVATION, THE U.S. WOULD, WITHIN LEGAL BOUNDS, BE WILLING IF ASKED TO LEND ITS SUPPORT. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO ENCOURAGE THE UN AND OTHERS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUCH OAU UNDERTAKINGS. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL IN A VARIETY OF WAYS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN AFRICA. WE ARE CONSIDERING DISCUSSING WITH THE SOVIETS MUTUAL CONSTRAINT IN ARMS TRANSFERS TO THE CONTINENT.

5. ON NAMIBIA, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A CRITICAL STAGE. THE CONTACT GROUP PLANS TO MEET IN LUANDA JULY 10-12 WITH PRESIDENT NUJOMA AND SWAPO'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SWAPO'S REACTION TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR A SOLUTION. ONLY TWO KEY ISSUES REMAIN: THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY, ON WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO STATE THAT FOR HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REASONS WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE A PART OF NAMIBIA, AND THE LOCATION IN NAMIBIA OF THE RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE. THE CONTACT GROUP WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO PUT ALL ITS FORCES IN A SINGLE LOCATION EITHER SOUTH OF WINDHOEK, OR INDEED EVEN

AT THE MOST SOUTHERLY OF THE TWO POINTS WHICH THE PRO-
POSAL OFFERS AS OPTIONAL SITES FOR THEIR 1500 MEN. NONE-
THELESS, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SWAPO WILL ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL
WHICH WE REGARD AS FAIR AND PRACTICAL. TO OFFSET SWAPO'S
CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAG TROOPS, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT
WHATEVER SIZE OF UN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA THE UN SECRETARY
GENERAL BELIEVES IS APPROPRIATE. CONTINUED OAU SUPPORT

OF THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

6. RHODESIAN ISSUE COVERED IN STATE 169971.

7. IN PARTICULAR, WE WANT SUGGESTIONS FROM NUMAYRI AND
OTHER OAU LEADERS ON HOW WE MIGHT USE OUR INFLUENCE OR
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GOOD OFFICES IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN EFFORTS TO MUTE AND
RESOLVE CONFLICTS. WE BELIEVE OUR INVOLVEMENT IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA IS ONE EXAMPLE OF POSITIVE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFRICA TOWARD THE JUST RESOLUTION OF
DISPUTES. AT THE SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOUTHERN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS ARE UNIQUE. IN NEGOTIATIONS IN THE REST
OF AFRICA, WE WOULD EXPECT OUR ROLE TO BE MUCH MORE ONE
OF SUPPORTING AFRICAN INITIATIVES RATHER THAN PROPOSING
OUR OWN.

8. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ONGOING CONSULTATIONS DURING THE
YEAR ON THESE AND OTHER WAYS OF STRENGTHENING THE OAU. WE
HAVE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH
HIM, BUT WISH TO STAFF THESE OUT MORE FULLY BEFORE DOING
SO. BASIC TO U.S. POLICY IS THE GOAL OF HAVING AFRICAN
PROBLEMS SETTLED PEACEFULLY BY AFRICANS. WE WOULD WELCOME
HIS COUNSEL AS WE LOOK AT WAYS WE MIGHT HELP TO ACHIEVE
THIS GOAL.

9. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING SHOULD SUBJECTS
BE RAISED BY APPROPRIATE LEVELS WITHIN HOST GOVERNMENTS.
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